

Message Text

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ACTION OPIC-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 /024 W

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R 121206Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC 3017

UNCLAS MANAMA 558

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS : EFIN, BA

SUBJECT : OPIC AGREEMENT

REF : STATE 112613

1. AS DEPARTMENT AND OPIC AWARE I KEEP BADGERING FOREIGN MINISTER AND OTHER APPROPRIATE GOB OFFICIALS ABOUT GETTING ON WITH OPIC AGREEMENT. FOREIGN MINISTER IS TAKING LINE GOB PREFERS TO GET TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT WITH U.S. PINNED DOWN BEFORE MOVING ON TO OPIC.

2. MAY 11 I REMINDED LEGAL MINISTER BAHARNA WE ARE STILL WAITING ON GOB TO APPROVE OPIC AGREEMENT. AFTER PLEADING THAT I MUST TALK WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER, WHO IS CURRENTLY OUT OF BAHRAIN, BAHARNA SAID THAT SO FAR ONLY HE, THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND DEVELOPMENT MINISTER SHIRAWI HAD SUPPORTED CONCLUDING THE AGREEMENT IN CABINET DISCUSSIONS. I ASKED WHY THE OTHER CABINET MEMBERS DID NOT SUPPORT THE AGREEMENT. BAHARNA REPLIED THAT THE OTHER MINISTERS HAD NOT YET READ THE DRAFT AGREEMENT. I ASKED IF THEY WERE OPPOSED TO THE AGREEMENT OR OPPOSED TO HAVING TO READ IT. HE SHEEPISHLY INDICATED THAT THE LATTER IS NEARER THE MARK.

3. I WILL FOLLOW UP WITH FOREIGN MINISTER UPON HIS RETURN AND OTHER MINISTERS AS APPROPRIATE. WHILE ONE COULD DIVINE HIGH POLITICAL PURPOSE BEHIND GOB'S DELAY IN GETTING ON WITH THIS MATTER I HAVE GOOD REASON TO BELIEVE CABINET'S DELAY IS ESSENTIALLY ONE OF WORKLOAD WITH OTHER MATTERS BEING GIVEN SUBSTANTIALLY HIGHER PRIORITY THAN OPIC.

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TWINAM

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